THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Instructions were issued to Ministries/Departments of the Government to effect a cut in the Central non-Plan expenditure by 3 per cent over the approved amounts for 1983-84. They were further advised to bring about 5 per cent cut in approved Plan outlays for the year 1983-84. No quantification of these measures was made.

The Government continued to take necessary steps to curb inessential and non-productive expenditure during 1984-85.

Instructions were again issued in September, 1985 for effecting a cut of 5 per cent in the no-Plan expenditure voted by Parliament for the year 1985-86. Due to this cut in an economy of Rs. 894.13 crores is estimated to have been achieved.

(b) and (c) The information is not centrally available nor it is practicable to collect the same within a reasonable time.

Retention of over subscribed share money by M/s. ITC and M/s. Modi Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd.

1303. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. ITC Ltd. and M/s. Modi Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd. have managed to corner huge amounts while raising their capital in 1984;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government's order these two companies have retained over-subscribed amounts against the issue; and

(c) if so, what is the amount retained by each of these two companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) M/s. Modi Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd. were accorded consent on 31.5.84 to the issue of secured, non-convertible debentures of Rs. 125 lakhs, for cash at par to the existing equity shareholders of the company M/s. ITC Ltd. were accorded consent on 3.5.84 to the allotment of fully paid equity shares of Rs. 296.23 lakhs to certain bond-holders in lieu of interest on the bonds issued in terms of consent order No. R.354/CC1/82 dated 1.9.1982, as amended.

In both these cases no approval was granted for the retention of over subscription.

आटोमोबाइल वर्कशाप एसोसिएशन, पटना का ज्ञापन

1304. **श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पटना आटोमोबाइल एसोसिएशन का एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल हाल में उनसे मिला था ;

(ख) क्या इस प्रतिनिधि मंडल ने अपने ज्ञापन में सरकार द्वारा पिछले केन्द्रीय बजट में बसों तथा ट्रकों का ढांचा बनाने वालों पर उत्पाद शुल्क लगाने के परिणामस्वरूप लघु स्तर के ढांचा बनाने वालों को पेश आ रहे वित्तीय संकट का उल्लेख किया है तथा यह सुझाव दिया है कि इस कर को वाहनों की चेसियां बनाने वालों से लिया जाय ; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) तथा (ख) का उत्तर "हां" हो, तो क्या सरकार ने इस सुझाव पर विचार किया है और इसे स्वीकार न करने के क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) अभ्यावेदन पर विचार किया जा रहा है ।

Agitation by coffee growers in Karnataka

1305. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that coffee growers of Karnataka have started an indefinite agitation from the 29th March, 1986;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major demands made by the Coffee growers relate revision of Minimum Release Price, waiver of export duty, more representation to growers in the Board, a grower member should be the Chairman of the Coffee Board payment of first instalment equal to Minimum Release Price to growers.

Decision regarding revision of Minimum Release Price is expected to be taken soon. While imposing export duty it is ensured that the growers' remunerative return and exporters' profit margin is kept intact and only half of the windfal gain beyond a base price so arrived is charged as the export duty.

The composition of the Board was reviewed as recently as in August, 1984 to provide more balanced representation. Chairman, Coffee Board has to be a Government official with administrative experience who could take an overall view on an issue keeping in mind the various interests involved in coffee industry. Besides he acts as the Chief Executive.

The first instalment of payment to growers being equal to the Minimum Release Price may not be in the interest of coffee growers because the Board will have to arrange for payment through overdrafts at a higher rate of interest which will reduce the net payments to the growers considerably.

1306. [*Transferred to the 14th August, 1986*].

Conversion of loan given to Karnataka from short term to medium term loans

1307. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government have urged the Central Government to convert the short-term loans which were made available to the State Government under drought relief assistance, into medium-term loans;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No request has been received from the Government of Karnataka for conversion of short term loans into medium term loans for drought relief.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Request for Ban on import of raw silk by Exporters

1308. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the silk industry in the South particularly in Karnataka State has been severely affected due to imports of raw silk exporters under the replenishment scheme and advance licencing scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government of Karnataka has urged the Central Government to put a ban on import of silk by exporters under replenishment of export production and advance licencing scheme; and